

Article, October 9, 1884, with transcript

Dr. Bell's Audiometer.

36 File Biographical Material

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Prof. Alexander Graham Bell is certainly laboring hard and faithfully in the interests of the deaf and dumb. He has made among the deaf innumerable experiments, drawn any number of deductions, and presented to the world various theories, all of which have cost him a great deal of valuable time and no insignificant sums of money. Whether his theories be accepted or rejected by men of longer experience, they all will acknowledge the unselfish devotion which he has shown towards the cause of deaf-mute education. One of his newest devices is called the Audiometer, and is intended to test and register the hearing capacity of those who suffer from partial or supposed total deafness. The machine is a combination of the telephone and a galvanic battery, and appears to be very faithful in its operations. We had an opportunity to test our hearing capacity a few days since. Hitherto we believed it to be at zero, but much to our astonishment it was registered at 11 in one ear and 9 in the other. But the most curious part of it all was that immediately after, a very strong ear-trumpet was tried, and with the result that we could distinguish several of the vowel sounds, although six months previous we could hear no sound at all. Two days after, the trumpet was again tried, but we could not hear any of the sounds except the letter O. Can it be that the testing apparatus had a stimulating effect upon the auditory nerves? Perhaps, in time, the question of teaching deaf-mutes may be solved through some kind of an instrument that will give them a certain power to hear and distinguish magnified vocal sounds. The present invention has demonstrated that there are many inmates of deaf-mute schools that can be profitably taught through the ear, and is a

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strong endorsement of Principal Gillespie's "oral classes," if any other than the success he has achieved be considered necessary.